

chemical composition  $\text{SiO}_2$ : 45-55 wt%,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ : 33-42 wt%,  $\text{MgO}$ : 12-18 wt%, in a honeycomb fashion,

the honeycomb structural body having a cell density of at least 600 cells/in<sup>2</sup>, a pore volume of said partition walls being at least 30%, an average roughness Rz of the surface of said partition walls being 1-5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and said honeycomb structural body being a catalyst carrier having a catalyst loaded on the surface of said partition walls.

3. (Amended) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said partition walls being no greater than 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Amended) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, wherein a mean size of fine pores formed inside said partition walls being 1-10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Please add the following new claims.

--7. (New) A honeycomb structural body comprising a plurality of cells formed by providing partition walls composed mainly of cordierite, which has the chemical composition  $\text{SiO}_2$ : 45-55 wt%,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ : 33-42 wt%,  $\text{MgO}$ : 12-18 wt%, in a honeycomb fashion,

the honeycomb structural body having a cell density of at least 600 cells/in<sup>2</sup>, a pore volume of said partition walls being at least 35%-80%, an average roughness Rz of the surface of said partition walls being 95-80%, an average roughness Rz of the

surface of said partition walls being 1-5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and said honeycomb structural body being a catalyst carrier having a catalyst loaded on the surface of said partition walls.

8. (New) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, characterized in that the thickness of said partition walls is no greater than 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (New) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, characterized in that the mean size of the fine pores formed inside said partition walls is 1-10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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10. (New) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 1, characterized in that said honeycomb structural body is used as a catalyst carrier in an exhaust gas purification apparatus for an internal combustion engine.

11. (New) A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, characterized in that said honeycomb structural body is used as a catalyst carrier in an exhaust gas purification apparatus for an internal combustion engine.--